

Message Text

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73

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 SAJ-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DRC-01 /103 W

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R 261650Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4519

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PO PFOR

SUBJECT: ITALIAN PRESS REACTION TO MILITARY COUP IN PORTUGAL

1. MILITARY COUP IN PORTUGAL LEAD STORY ALL MEDIA TODAY. ALL REPORTS AGREE COUP TRIGGERED BY GAETANO GOVT'S COLONIAL POLICY AND RECENT DISMISSAL OF SENIOR ARMY OFFICERS CRITICAL OF THAT POLICY. GENERAL SPINOLA NAMED AS INSPIRATION IF NOT LEADER OF REBELS.

2. IMMEDIATE PROMISES BY MILITARY JUNTA TO GIVE PORTUGAL "DEMOCRATIC LIBERTY" INVOKED FAVORABLE EDITORIAL COMMENT ACROSS POLITICAL SPECTRUM, COUNTERED, HOWEVER, BY WIDESPREAD BELIEF THAT COUP PRIMARILY REPRESENTS MILITARY REACTION AGAINST UNWINNABLE "FOREIGN" WARS, NOT BASIC DESIRE TO REFORM PORTUGUESE POLITICAL LIFE.

3. "IL MESSAGGERO, LEFT-LEANING ROME DAILY ONLY NON-COMMUNIST PAPER TO ALLEGE BEHIND-THE-SCENES US BLESSING FOR COUP. ACCORDING TO PAPER, US CONCERNED WITH MAINTAINING CLOSE TIES WITH PORTUGAL AT THE SAME TIME IT IS PROMOTING "NEW" RAPPROCHEMENT POLICY TOWARDS THIRD WORLD.

4. COMMUNIST PRESS NOTED THAT "US COULD NO LONGER SUPPORT PORTUGAL'S COLONIALIST POLICY."

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5. TV AND RADIO COVERAGE OF COUP FACTUAL, EDITORIAL COMMENT

CUATIOUSLY FAVORABLE TOWARD NEW REGIME. VOLPE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 26 APR 1974
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
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Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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30 JUN 2005

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